

Claims

1. A method for treating cancer comprising  
  
contacting a multi-epitopic tumor-associated antigen expressed in the host serum with a composition comprising a binding reagent that specifically binds to a single epitope on the tumor-associated antigen; and  
  
allowing the binding reagent to bind to the antigen to form a reagent-antigen pair, whereby the formation of the reagent-antigen pair elicits a host immune response.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the binding reagent comprises a monoclonal antibody.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the target multi-epitopic tumor associated antigen is CA 125.
4. The method of claim 2 wherein the target multi-epitopic tumor associated antigen is CA 19.9.
5. The method of claim 2 wherein the target multi-epitopic tumor associated antigen is CA 15.3.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the tumor-associated antigen is an ovarian tumor antigen.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the host immune response is a cellular

immune response.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the host immune response is a humoral immune response.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the host immune response is both a humoral immune response and a cellular response.

10. A method for eliciting an immune response comprising  
contacting a multi-epitopic tumor-associated antigen expressed in the host serum with a composition comprising a binding reagent that specifically binds to a single epitope on the tumor-associated antigen; and

allowing the binding reagent to bind to the antigen to form a reagent-antigen pair, whereby the formation of the reagent-antigen pair elicits a host immune response.

11. A method for increasing the immunogenicity of an antigen comprising  
contacting a multi-epitopic tumor-associated antigen expressed in the host serum with a composition comprising a binding reagent that specifically binds to a single epitope on the tumor-associated antigen; and

allowing the binding reagent to bind to the antigen to form a reagent-antigen pair, whereby the formation of the reagent-antigen pair elicits a host immune response.

12. A method for re-conforming a multi-epitopic tumor associated antigen

expressed in a host serum and for recognizing and initiating an immune response, comprising contacting a multi-epitopic tumor-associated antigen expressed in the host serum with a composition comprising a binding reagent that specifically binds to a single epitope on the tumor-associated antigen; and

allowing the binding reagent to bind to the antigen to form a reagent-antigen pair, whereby the formation of the reagent-antigen pair elicits a host immune response.

13. A delivery system for a multi-epitopic tumor associated antigen expressed in a host serum, and for recognizing and initiating an immune response, comprising a composition comprising a binding reagent that specifically binds to a single epitope on a multi-epitopic tumor-associated antigen.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the formation of the reagent-antigen pair elicits a host immune response that overcomes tolerance of the antigen.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein the contacting step is *ex vivo* or *in vivo*.